

## Message Text

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13-11  
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 /081 W  
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R 061918Z FEB 76  
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONGEN JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0454

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, UNGA, SY, XF  
SUBJ: SYRIAN MOVES TOWARD FURTHER UNITED NATIONS CONSIDERATION  
OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION

REF: DAMASCUS 611

1. SYRIAN TACTICS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL TO GET FURTHER  
UNITED NATIONS (UN) CONSIDERATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST  
QUESTION ARE IN THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE, US OPPOSITION  
NOTWITHSTANDING.

2. RULE 2 OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) RULES OF PRO-  
CEDURE STATES "THE PRESIDENT SHALL CALL A MEETING OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE REQUEST OF ANY MEMBER OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL." SYRIA COULD INVITE FRIENDLY UNSC MEMBER  
TO REQUEST A MEETING.

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3. "UNITING FOR PEACE" REFERS TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(UNGA) RESOLUTION 377 (V), ADOPTED NOVEMBER 3, 1950.  
CRITICAL SECTION OF THIS RESOLUTION IS PART A WHICH PROVIDES MECHANISM FOR CALLING INTO BEING AN "EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION" OF UNGA FOLLOWING A VETO OF, OR FAILURE TO OBTAIN 9 VOTES FOR A PROPOSED UNSC RESOLUTION DEALING WITH A SERIOUS CHAPTER VII OF UN CHARTER SITUATION (THREAT TO THE PEACE, BREACH OF THE PEACE, OR ACT OF AGGRESSION).

4. IN HIS ADDRESS TO UNGA ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1950, SECRETARY ARTHUR ACHESON SAID: "BUT IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS NOT ABLE TO ACT BECAUSE OF THE OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS OF A PERMANENT MEMBER, THE CHARTER DOES NOT LEAVE THE UNITED NATIONS IMPOTENT. THE OBLIGATION OF ALL MEMBERS TO TAKE ACTION TO MAINTAIN OR RESTORE THE PEACE DOES NOT DISAPPEAR BECAUSE OF A VETO. THE CHARTER, IN ARTICLES 10, 11 AND 14, ALSO VESTS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAN AND SHOULD ORGANIZE ITSELF TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITY PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS PREVENTED FROM ACTING.

"TO THIS END, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS PLACING BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AGAINST AGGRESSION."

5. "UNITING FOR PEACE" PROCEDURE PROVIDES ESSENTIALLY THAT WHEN UNSC IS UNABLE TO ACT "IN ANY CASE WHERE THERE APPEARS TO BE A THREAT TO THE PEACE, BREACH OF THE PEACE, OR ACT OF AGGRESSION", AN EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA MAY BE CONVENED 24 HOURS AFTER:

(A) THE SECRETARY GENERAL INFORMS THE MEMBERSHIP THAT SUCH A MEETING HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY 9 UNSC MEMBERS (A REQUEST OF THIS SORT IS PROCEDURAL AND THEREFORE NOT VETOABLE); OR (B) SIMPLE MAJORITY (73) OF UN MEMBERSHIP (144) SO REQUESTS.

6. THERE HAVE BEEN 5 EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSIONS OF UNGA UNDER "UNITING FOR PEACE" PROCEDURE. RECORD SHOWS  
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THAT, WHEN INVOKED, "UNITING FOR PEACE" PROCEDURE WORKS WITH GREAT RAPIDITY AND THAT EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSIONS CAN BE PROLONGED.

7. IT SEEMS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT 9 UNSC MEMBERS COULD BE PERSUADED TO SUPPORT A "UNITING FOR PEACE" RESOLUTION ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, MANY ASPECTS OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION WOULD ARGUABLY REPRESENT CHAPTER VII SITUATIONS. FURTHERMORE, IF SUFFICIENT SUPPORT WERE NOT FORTHCOMING IN UNSC, THERE WOULD REMAIN STRONG LIKELIHOOD

THAT 73 VOTES COULD BE MUSTERED FROM MEMBERSHIP AT LARGE  
CALLING FOR EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA ON MIDDLE  
EAST QUESTION.  
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